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EDINBURGH REVIEW,

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TO THE

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PREFACE.

As the Edinburgh Review is conducted on a principle of selection, and combines criticism with original discussion, its contents afford abundant matter of reference, in addition to what immediately belongs to the books that are noticed in them. Hence the want of a General Index, suited to the peculiar character of this Journal, was felt long before it had extended to twenty volumes:—that number, being calculated to contain materials sufficient to occupy an entire volume, has been fixed upon as the proper scope for the present compilation, and for every future one of the same kind, which this publication may come to require.

For an Index to a series, comparatively so small, of a Journal, distinguished rather for the selection, than for the number of its Articles, the plan of distributing the matter into Classes, or Branches of Literature, with a separate alphabet to each class, did not appear at all proper. Such an arrangement, however necessary in the case of works that are more voluminous, and of a more miscellaneous description, must ever have the effect of occasioning some degree of distraction and delay in research; and of rendering that access circuitous, which ought

to be direct. The simpler method has been here adopted, of disposing the references to every leading subject, and to all incidental matter, under one general alphabet; care having been previously taken so to diversify those references, as to indicate all the contents by the various words through which they can possibly recur to the memory of the reader. Prefixed to this general analytical summary will be found a separate Index of *Books Reviewed*, in which each is designated under the principal word of its title; and another of *Authors Reviewed*, each name being followed by an abstract of the title of the work, as given in the Review itself. By consulting either of these, a still more expeditious reference may be had to the several Articles.

Thus arranged, the present Volume, it is hoped, will afford the readiest, and most satisfactory access, to all the important contents of the series to which it belongs.

EDINBURGH,
September 1813.

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